

Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile WISCONSIN

Updated: February 27, 2001

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

Focus Areas Funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance and Epidemiology – Core Activities • Laboratory Capacity – Biological Agents • Health Alert Network
Wisconsin has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring additional surveillance and epidemiology staff to enhance diseases surveillance systems focused on bioterrorism threat agents, • Establishing a field investigation team that includes staff from local health departments, • Adding eighteen diseases and conditions to the state list of reportable diseases that will assist in rapidly identifying emerging infectious diseases and potential threats from bioterrorism, • Exploring collaborative activities associated with bioterrorism preparedness and response with the Michigan and Minnesota Health Departments – with a focus on training public and private healthcare providers, coordinating disease reporting systems, conducting joint exercises, and developing mutual aid agreements, • Conducting numerous seminars and presentations aimed at increasing the awareness of bioterrorism issues to public and private healthcare partners, • Enhancing public health laboratory capacity to detect specific bioterrorism threat agents • Purchasing and installing a network server at the University of Wisconsin to host the Health Alert Network website, and • Completing two assessments of local health department information/communication systems capabilities. The assessments were focused on information technology infrastructure and organizational capacity to respond during public health emergencies.
Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating and integrating bioterrorism-related surveillance and epidemiology response efforts with the state's existing infrastructure for epidemiology and surveillance, • Designating staff to conduct field investigations in the event of suspected or confirmed biologic or chemical terrorist events, • Ensuring legal authorities for surveillance of biologic and

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- chemical terrorist events,
- Developing a public health surveillance and epidemiology response plan for bioterrorist events,
- Enhancing capacity for emergency communication related to bioterrorism,
- Conducting activities to enhance collaboration between public health and partners on infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology relative to bioterrorism,
- Training state and local public health staff in issues related to possible terrorism events including surveillance, epidemiology, and outbreak investigation and worker bio-safety issues,
- Developing and enhancing capacities to conduct rapid and accurate diagnosis of all priority biologic threat agents,
- Collaborating to develop a national laboratory network,
- Developing and implementing a system for specimen transport, triage, testing, and referral,
- Ensuring rapid reporting to and integration of information systems for diagnostic test results, surveillance data, and other critical information needed by key partners to effectively respond to bioterrorist threats/incidents,
- Integrating new technologies and advanced methods for rapid diagnosis of the priority threat agents,
- Developing and implementing quality assurance standards and security measures in consultation with the University of Wisconsin to ensure safeguarding of laboratory resources,
- Developing periodic exercises, drills, and scenario events in conjunction with local, state, and federal partners,
- Identifying the capacities of local and state workforce (laboratories), determine their training needs relative to the biologic threat agents, and develop an approach to meet these training needs,
- Continuing the assessment of the state's workforce competencies for informatics and bioterrorism response,
- Providing T1 connectivity to local health departments that currently do not have this level of high-speed, Internet connectivity,
- Continuing to develop and test a "Broadcast Health Alert Infrastructure" to ensure rapid dissemination of urgent health

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| | <p>alert messages to key response elements,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing the capability to distribute distance learning offerings via the Health Alert Network,• Establishing the secure Health Alert Network web site, and• Providing organizational support and guidance to hospitals in the management of mass casualties. |
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Contact Information	<p>Project Coordinator</p> <p>Steven A. Marshall, MS Epidemiologist Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section Bureau of Communicable Diseases Wisconsin Division of Public Health 1 West Wilson Street, Room 318 Madison, WI 53701-2659</p> <p>P: 608-266-9783 F: 608-266-2906 E: marshs@dhfs.state.wi.us</p> <p>Surveillance and Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity – Biological Agents</p> <p>Jeffrey P. Davis, MD Chief Medical Officer & State Epidemiologist Wisconsin Division of Public Health 1 West Wilson Street, Room 318 Madison, WI 53701-2659</p> <p>P: 608-267-9006 F: 608-266-2906 E: davisjp@dhfs.state.wi.us</p> <p>Health Alert Network</p> <p>Lawrence P. Hanrahan, MS, PhD Epidemiologist and Chief Section of Epidemiology and Toxicology Bureau of Environmental Health Wisconsin Division of Public Health 1 West Wilson Street, Room 150 Madison, WI 53701-2659</p> <p>P: 608-267-7173 F: 608-267-4853 E: hanralp@dhfs.state.us</p>
EMERGENCY	<p>Federal Emergency Management Agency: (312) 408-5501</p>

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CONTACTS

State Emergency Management Agency: (608) 242-3232

Federal Bureau of Investigation: (414) 276-4684

State Public Health Agency: (608) 266-1511

Anecdotes

- None to report at this time.

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